

19. *ORTHETRUM GLAUCUM* (BRAUER) PREYING UPON
PALPOPLEURA SEXMACULATA SEXMACULATA (FABR.)
 (ODONATA: LIBELLULIDAE)

Hobby (1934) describes the dragonflies as one of the best known entomorphagous predators. According to Tillyard (1917) they are the most powerful determining factors in preserving the balance of insect life in ponds, rivers, lakes and their surroundings. They not only prey upon other groups of insect but do not spare even weaker members of their own kind. An interesting case was observed during our visit to the Corbett National Park (U.P.) in November 1971. A specimen of *O. glaucum* was observed resting on a grass stalk, (grasping a smaller dragonfly) between its extended legs. The head of the prey had already been devoured and its thorax was in the process of being consumed. The two specimens were collected at this stage and no further observations could be recorded. The prey was later determined to be a specimen of *P. s. sexmaculata*.

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
 13, SUBHAS ROAD,
 DEHRA DUN, (U.P.),
 April 24, 1972.

R. N. BHARGAVA
 MAHABIR PRASAD

REFERENCES

- HOBBY, B. M. (1934): The prey of British dragonflies. *Trans. ent. Soc. S. England* 8:65-76.
 TILLYARD, R. J. (1917): The Biology of Dragonflies. Cambridge.

20. ARCHIDIACEAE FROM WESTERN INDIA

(With fifteen text figures)

Archidiaceae is a small family consisting of a single tropical genus *Archidium* Brid. They are tiny perennial mosses growing on ground in meadow, barren places usually with high silicious content. A noteworthy characteristic of the genus is the large polyhedral spores, the largest among the mosses so far known. Those of *Archidium alternifolium* (Hedw.) Mitt. are as much as 200 μ in diameter. Genus *Archidium* Brid., *Bryol. Univ.* 1:747. 1826.

Being the only genus of the family, its characters are the same as those of the family Archidiaceae. They are small perennating mosses, perennating by means of underground protonema and stolon-